

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

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SUBJECT: JUNE 15 PRESS SUMMARY

1. NYT' S GWERTZMAN BELIEVES HAK HINTED AT YEST(RDAY' S
WH BRIEFING THAT US RECEIVED SOME KIND OF ASSURANCES FROM

THO WHICH COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR END OF KHMER FIGHTING. HAK REFUSED CONFIRM PARIS REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT BUT DID NOTHING TO DAMPEN SPECULATION; SAID EVOLUTION OF LAOS AND CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS DEPENDS UPON " DECISIONS TAKEN BY OTHER SOVEREIGN PARTIES." HE DECLINED DISCUSS " NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE INVOLVED THERE", SAYING THOSE RELATED TO CAMBODIA NEED " AN OPPORTUNITY TO MATURE." GWERTZMAN SAYS HAK LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HANOI HAD GIVEN SOME ASSURANCE IT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO PERSUADE KI TO DIMINISH FIGHTING AND BEGIN NEGOTS.

2. NYT' S ROBERTSON REPORTS THAT AT PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE, THO CONDEMNED US- " ATROCIOUS" WAR OF AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA AND DENIED HE AND HAK HAD REACHED ANY TACIT UNDERSTANDING ON ENDING KHMER FIGHTING. BUT THO REAFFIRMED HANOI' S DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 20. VC DELEGATION CHIEF HIEU ALSO DENIED IN SEPARATE NEWS CONFERENCE THERE HAD BEEN ANY " TACIT AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THO AND HAK ON CAMBODIA. THO REFUSED DISCUSS DATE FOR SVN ELECTIONS, SAYING THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES

THERE AND IT WOULD BE " PUTTING THE PLOW BEFORE THE BUFFALO" TO TALK ABOUT ELECTIONS BEFORE GUNS ARE SILENT.

3. NYT' S KAMM INTERVIEWS LON NON IN PARIS. LON SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT US OBTAINED ASSURANCE FROM HANOI THAT NVA WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM CAMBODIA " RATHER RAPIDLY." EARLIER IN DAY HE HAD CONFERRED WITH HANG THUN HAK, WHO IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE LON NOL; S " OBSERVER" OF THE HAK- THO TALKS. HANG THUN HAK OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TALKS BUT DECLINED DISCUSS THEM, SAYING " AMERICANS ARE VERY DISCREET BECAUSE THIS IS VERY DELICATE WORK."

4. CSM' S OKA IN PARIS THINKS HAK' S PARIS CALL ON PRC FONMIN CHI PENG- FEI INDICATES US MAY HAVE ENLISTED PRC' S AID IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE KHMER C- F.

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5. NYT' S TREASTER IN SAIGON REPORTS FONMIN LAM IN PRSS CONFERENCE SAID GVN HAD MANAGED TO BLOCK SOME OF COMMUNIQUE PROPOSALS IT CONSIDERED MOST OBJECTIONABLE. US OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY GVN HAD AGREED TO SIGN COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE " THEY HAD WORN IT DOWN TO ALMOST NOTHING." LAM ALSO INDICATED US AND GVN LEFT NEGOTS WITH UNDERSTANDING OR " EXPECTATION" THAT NVA WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA. TREASTER BELIEVES COMMUNISTS GAINED MOST FROM COMMUNIQUE.

6. UPI SAIGON REPORTS GVN AND PRG COMMANDS ORDER THEIR TROOPS TO OBSERVE C- F SCRUPULOUSLY IN LINE WITH COMMUNIQUE REQUIREMENTS. BUT FIGHTING CONTINUED AND GVN REPORTS 108

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS. POST'S LIPPMAN IN SAIGON SAYS GVN WILL ALL BUT REPUDIATE SEVERAL KEY ARTICLES OF COMMUNIQUE BY ANNOUNCING THEY WON'T BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL AFTER A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND GVN SATISFIED THERE NO MORE MILITARY THREAT TO COUNTRY. DISPATCH BASED UPON LIPPMAN'S READING OF MCNINFO BOOKLET RELEASED YESTERDAY ON COMMUNIQUE. SAIGON REACTIONS TO COMMUNIQUE RANGED FROM OUTRIGHT SCORN AMONG MILITARY OFFICERS TO LUKEWARMTH IN US EMBASSY. HIGH-RANKING US DIPLOMAT SAYS, "NOBODY PRETENDS THAT THIS IS GOING TO SETTLE IT. BUT IF WE CAN JUST GET EVERYBODY TO LAY THOSE PISTOLS DOWN FOR AWHILE..." (WP).

7. POST'S RICH AND LYONS DESCRIBE CASE-CHURCH BILL AS MOST SWEEPING PASSED BY SENATE IN HISTORY OF VN CONFLICT. WH STRONGLY OPPOSED BUT, AFTER COUNTING HEADS, GOP SENATE LEADERS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE FIGHT TO FLOOR IN ORDER AVOID FURTHER HUMILIATING BLOW TO PRESIDENT. POST'S MARDER

SAYS HAK'S BRIEFING OF SENATE LEADERS YESTERDAY IS PART OF ADMIN EFFORT TO BUY "SOME WEEKS" OF TIME FROM CONGRESS TO EXTRICATE US FROM CAMBODIA BY DIPLOMACY, BUT WITHIN HOURS, SENATE GAVE ADMIN ITS WORST SETBACK EVER. ACCORDING MARDER, "FOR YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE AVOWED POLICY OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY TO TURN THE PROBLEMS OF INDOCHINA

BACK TO THE INDOCHINESE. BUT NOW THE CONGRESSIONAL CLOCK IS RUNNING OUT ON THE TURNOVER MORE SWIFTLY THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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US DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE TIMED TO DELIVER."

8. ALL PAPERS REPORT OVERWHELMING SENATE VOTE ON CASE-CHURCH AMENDMENT TO CUT OFF ALL FUNDS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - FOR US MILITARY ACTION IN INDOCHINA. IT ACTED FIVE HOURS AFTER HAK HAD BRIEFED SENATORS, URGING THEM TO GIVE ADMIN MORE TIME TO ACHIEVE KHMER C-F BEFORE CUTTING OFF BOMBING FUNDS. ACCORDING TO NYT'S MADDEN, MEASURE GOES BEYOND AMENDMENT EARLIER APPROVED BY SENATE, WHICH BOGGED DOWN IN CONFERENCE, AND IT NOT CLEAR HOW YESTERDAY'S MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE BILL WILL FARE IN CONFERENCE. BUT CONTINUING SHIFT IN SENATE SENTIMENT UNDERLINED BY SCOTT'S DECISION NOT TO SUPPORT ANY US BOMBING AFTER JUNE 30: "TRY AS I MAY, I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO AGREE THAT CONTINUED US BOMBING WILL AID IN BRINGING PEACE TO THIS BATTLE-SCARRED COUNTRY." SCOTT ALSO SAID THAT IF CAMBODIANS "MEAN TO HAVE PEACE, THEY CAN HAVE IT. IF THEY MEAN TO HAVE WAR, I SAY WE HAVE HAD IT AND IT IS TIME TO END OUR PART IN IT" (NYDN).

9. CINCPAC ANNOUNCES REDUCTION OF CAMBODIA B-52 TARGETS, BUT SPOKESMAN SAYS REDUCTION IN SORTIES DOESN'T

NECESSARILY MEAN LESSENING EFFORT (SUN).

10. DOD SAYS 17 USN SHIPS AT SUBIC, SINGAPORE AND OFF TAIWAN WILL RENDEZVOUS OFF HAIPHONG MONDAY TO RESUME MINE- CLEARING OPS. FRIEDHEIM SAYS 100 FREIGHTERS AND TANKERS HAVE ENTERED HAIPHONG SINCE APRIL 19 WHEN CLEARING OPS CEASED.

11. NYT' S BROWNE REPORTS COMMUNIST FORCES PRESSING ON PP FROM SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AS HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES. MAIN ACTION STILL ON HIGHWAY 4 WEST OF CITY, AND ROADS INTO CITY JAMMED WITH REFUGEES. 30,000 REFUGEES GENERATED FROM KOMPONG KANTUOT WHICH UNDER COMMUNIST ROCKET AND GROUND ATTACK. USAF VERY ACTIVE IN CONTINUOUS AIR STRIKES ON COMMUNIST POSITIONS. BROWNE SAYS IT APPEARS MANY NEW US GUNSHIPS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

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12. UPI HONG KONG REPORTS AMERICAN CHOPPER PILOT SHOT DOWN AND CAPTURED IN LAOS LAST MONTH, QUOTING HSINHUA DISPATCH. CINCPAC SAYS IT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY US MILITARY POW IN LAOS (NYT).

13. REUTER' S PRINGLE, IN PEKING, REPORTS ON USLO' S FIRST MONTH. US ENVOYS, WHETHER JOGGING AROUND TIENANMEN SQUARE IN EARLY MORNINGS OR ATTENDING INFORMAL PARTIES ON DIPLO-MATIC CIRCUIT, " ALREADY AN ESTABLISHED PART OF THE PEKING SCENE." BRUCE AND STAFF EXPECTED MOVE INTO NEW PREMISES NEXT WEEK, AND US FLAG WILL FLY IN PEKING AGAIN -- " TANGIBLE EVIDENCE" OF CHANGE IN CH
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